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 *Practice Limited to
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December 19, 2003

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Commissioner for Patents
 PO Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Art Unit To be assigned

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
 Application No. 10/670,465; Filed: September 26, 2003
 For: **Transition Section for a Catheter**
 Inventors: **Gribbons *et al.***
 Our Ref: 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. SKGF Cover Letter;
2. Information Disclosure Statement;
3. Form PTO-1449 (1 sheet) citing references: AA1-AG1 and AR1;
4. Copies of cited documents: AA1-AG1 and AR1; and
5. One (1) return postcard.

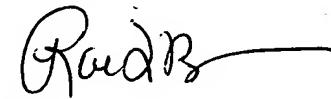
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 19, 2003
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Rae Lynn Prengaman
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TUM/RLP/lvt
211631_1.DOC



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:
Gribbons *et al.*
Appl. No.: 10/670,465
Filed: September 26, 2003
For: **Transition Section for a Catheter**

Confirmation No.: *To be assigned*
Art Unit: *To be assigned*
Examiner: *To be assigned*
Atty. Docket: 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent

application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
- a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first

cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$ _____ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:

a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).

5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:

7. Copies of the documents are submitted herewith.

8. Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. _____, filed _____, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Rae Lynn Prengaman
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Date: December 19, 2003

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211632_1.DOC



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| FORM PTO-1449 PATENT & TRANSFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 1737.2680000/TUM/RLP | APPLICATION NO. 10/670,465 |
| | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR Gribbons <i>et al.</i> | |
| | FILING DATE September 26, 2003 | ART UNIT To be assigned |
| | | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | FILING DATE |
|------------------|-----------------|------------|--------------------------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| AA1 | 4,960,410 | 10/2/1990 | Pinchuk | | | 03/31/1989 |
| AB1 | 4,988,356 | 01/29/1991 | Crittenden <i>et al.</i> | | | 04/25/1988 |
| AC1 | 5,395,334 | 03/07/1995 | Keith <i>et al.</i> | | | 03/22/1993 |
| AD1 | 5,605,543 | 02/25/1997 | Swanson | | | 01/30/1996 |
| AE1 | 5,843,050 | 12/01/1998 | Jones <i>et al.</i> | | | 11/13/1995 |
| AF1 | 6,004,291 | 12/21/1999 | Ressemann <i>et al.</i> | | | 01/26/1998 |
| AG1 | 6,475,209 B1 | 11/05/2002 | Larson <i>et al.</i> | | | 03/24/2000 |
| AH1 | | | | | | |
| AI1 | | | | | | |
| AJ1 | | | | | | |
| AK1 | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB-CLASS | TRANSLATION |
|------------------|-----------------|------|---------|-------|-----------|-------------|
| AL1 | | | | | | Yes No |
| AM1 | | | | | | Yes No |
| AN1 | | | | | | Yes No |
| AO1 | | | | | | Yes No |
| AP1 | | | | | | Yes No |

OTHER (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| | | |
|----|----------|--|
| AR | <u>1</u> | U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0191491 A1 (Published 10/09/03 filed 04/04/2002; Inventors: Duane <i>et al.</i>) |
| AS | <u>1</u> | |
| AT | <u>1</u> | |

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
|----------|-----------------|

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.